

## *A view from 3006*

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Wealthy Britain had never had it so good. In 2006 it had food and water in abundance, enough for three meals a day and cheap fuel to travel somewhere nice in the evenings for its third meal. In fact, Britain had so much food that it was able to over-do things just a tad and eat quite a bit more than it needed. This made people fat. This did not bother them much because, although it was fashionable to complain about the health service, it was usually on tap to sort things out if eating really got out of hand.

Unless it lived east of a line roughly from Chipping Sodbury to Sittingbourne, for the British, water was not a problem. This was just as well because British people had many rights and a right to clean water was one of them and it didn't matter too much that most of the world had neither rights nor for that matter clean water. So great were the rights of the British that each house had two types of water and two different types of tap to dispense it. Taps with a blue top were for water just as it comes and taps with red tops were for hot water, which was available at any time of the day or night.

British homes were heated in the winter, which made it possible, even in the coldest spells, for the lowest classes to watch an entertainment facility called the television wearing only a vest. Quite a few homes were cooled in the summer so that in really hot spells it was necessary to wear a jumper indoors.

Britain was OK! Oh yes, it gave a bit of money away from time to time. Some people even did this on an individual basis and it was called a tithe. It was decided by the Spiritual Well Being and Feel Good About Yourself Society (some historians have called this the church) that the word tithe meant ten so for convenience this was rounded down to five with an added bonus that the five percent would be after tax and not before. Governments also gave money away and, taken as a whole, Britain gave away .00438 of its national assets. It had to keep most of its wealth back because it had a lot of needs.

Britain decided that it needed something to do between meals so it invented the digestive biscuit. Very soon it decided that it needed chocolate on it, which was not a problem because chocolate could be sourced cheaply in parts of the world where wages were very low. The chocolate digestive, as it was called, came in little packs of three all individually wrapped. This generated a lot of rubbish but the British, being ever so resourceful, found that they could dump this problem pretty much back to the places in the world that supplied the chocolate.

Lots of well to do middle class British people drove a special sort of motor car called a Four by Four to meetings about the environment and exploitation of the planet and the people in it. These meetings sometimes took place at the Spiritual Well Being and Feel Good About Yourself Society.

Most British people had a pair of very cheap denim jeans from a very big shop called a supermarket. These jeans were made by foreigners who were happy to receive a very small payment for their work because their needs were less than ours. The big shops helped these foreigners out with a sort of charity, which they called buying power.

In Britain in 2006 there were just a few people without a home and these people were called the homeless. There were so few of these people that the problem, if it was a problem, was not really worth worrying about. The fact that they were homeless was probably their own fault anyway. All other British people had somewhere nice to live and, to make these places even nicer, some people bought presents for them from very special shops called Do It Yourself centres. These shops sold things that were made by chopping down forests in places that were a long way from Britain.

British people did a similar thing with their houses as they did with the digestive biscuit but on a much bigger scale. Not being content with one house, they had two. Some people had three but the third, to be fair, was usually as an investment for the children in years to come. Initially these second homes, as they were called, were in Cromer but later on, people found that their second home could

be in Portugal or Spain or Cuba because, as they rightly said, it was as quick to get to Cuba as it was to get to Cromer. The aeroplane flights were not a problem because it was possible to get a flight for less than the price of the cheap jeans in the supermarket.

British people had at least two weeks away each year. This they called a holiday. It became quite common on these holidays to travel so far away that you could go and look at how the poor people in the world really lived. You could even go and see where the forests used to be.

Other holidays were not called holidays but had the name short break. These short breaks could be anything from a weekend to the full two weeks but the title modification made people feel better about them and consciences were very much eased especially if that short break was felt to be particularly needed.

Holidays were taken throughout the year and it was not uncommon for British people to return to find the doors to their local Spiritual Well Being and Feel Good About Yourself Society locked. This was because there were so many people taking holidays and short breaks that there were not enough people left behind to keep things running.

The British never really got to grips with doing anything for the rest of the world until it was forced upon them and those who would like to know more can read one of the many accounts of World Fuel War One, World Food War One and World Water Wars One and Two.